In the claims:

1. (currently amended)   A computer implemented method of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing system, the method comprising:

establishing a license database including a plurality of internet protocol addresses referencing user data processing systems on which the software application is licensed to execute;

establishing a receipt code database including a plurality of receipt codes, each receipt code indicating a paid license for the software application;

obtaining the internet protocol address of the user data processing system using the vendor data processing system; ~~and~~

if the internet protocol address is recorded in the license database, then transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system and activating the application with the authorization code~~.~~;

in response to the internet protocol address not being recorded in the license database, requesting a user of the user data processing system to transmit a receipt code to the vendor data processing system;

in response to a receipt code received by the vendor data processing system from a user data processing system, verifying presence of the receipt code in the receipt code database; and

in response to the verifying presence of the receipt code, transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol address of the user data processing system in the license database.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising in response to the internet protocol address not being recorded in the license database and the receipt code not being present in the receipt code database, presenting to the user data processing system ~~options for entry of a receipt code or~~ an order form for the software application ~~if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database~~.

4. (original)   The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of processing a payment by the user for the software application in response to the presented order form.

5. (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the license database includes:

identifying a number of available software application licenses corresponding to the user that are not referenced to a particular internet protocol address and user data processing system; and

if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then associating at least one of the available software application licenses with the internet protocol address and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system.

6. (canceled)

7. (original)   The method of claim 4, wherein the step of processing a payment includes accessing a financial institution data processing system for conducting a payment verification.

8. (currently amended)   A system of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing system, the system comprising:

means for associating a plurality of internet protocol addresses with user data processing systems on which the software application is licensed to execute;

means for associating a plurality of receipt codes with the software application, wherein each receipt code indicates a paid license for the software application;

means for obtaining the internet protocol address from the user data processing system; and

means for transmitting the authorization code to the user data processing system for activating the application where the internet protocol address is recorded in the license database.

means, responsive to the internet protocol address not being recorded in the license database, for requesting a user of the user data processing system to transmit a receipt code to the vendor data processing system;

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means, responsive to a receipt code received by the vendor data processing system from a user data processing system, for verifying presence of the receipt code in the receipt code database; and

means, responsive to the verifying presence of the receipt code, for transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol address of the user data processing system in the license database.

9. (original)   The system of claim 8, further comprising a financial institution data processing system adapted to process a user payment for the software application in response to a vendor generated order form.

10. (currently amended)   A computer implemented method of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing system, the method comprising:

establishing a license database including a plurality of internet protocol addresses referencing user data processing systems on which the software application is licensed to execute;

establishing a receipt code database including a plurality of receipt codes, each receipt code indicating a paid license for the software application;

initiating installation of the software application in the user data processing system;

obtaining the internet protocol address of the user data processing system using the vendor data processing system;

if the internet protocol address is recorded in the license database, then transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system; ~~and~~

if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then requesting a user of the user data processing system to transmit a receipt code to the vendor data processing system ~~and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system after receiving the receipt code.~~;

in response to a receipt code received by the vendor data processing system from a user data processing system, verifying presence of the receipt code in the receipt code database; and

in response to the verifying presence of the receipt code, transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol address of the user data processing system in the license database.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising in response to ~~if~~ the receipt code ~~is~~ not being present in the receipt code database ~~received~~, ~~then~~ presenting to the user data processing system for user authorization an order form for the software application.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of processing a payment by the user for the software application in response to the presented order form.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising after receiving the authorization code completing installation of the software application.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of establishing the license database includes:

identifying a number of available software application licenses corresponding to the user that are not referenced to a particular internet protocol address and user data processing system; and

if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then associating at least one of the available software application licenses with the internet protocol address and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising after obtaining the internet protocol address from the user data processing system:

if the internet protocol address is not recorded, then prior to presenting the order form to the user, performing steps (a) – (c):

(a) determining availability of at least one software application license corresponding to the user;

(b) if at least one license is available, then automatically transmitting the authorization code to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol address in the license database; and

(c) if at least one the license is not available, then presenting the order form for the software application to the user data processing system.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of establishing the receipt code database includes:

identifying a number of available software application licenses corresponding to the user that are not referenced to a particular receipt code; and

if the receipt code is not recorded in the receipt code database, then associating at least one of the available software application licenses with the receipt code and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, further comprising after transmitting the receipt code to the vendor data processing system:

if the receipt code is not recorded, then prior to presenting the order form to the user, performing steps (a) – (c):

(a) determining availability of at least one software application license corresponding to the user;

(b) if at least one license is available, then automatically transmitting the authorization code to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol address in the license database and the receipt code in the receipt code database; and

(c) if at least one the license is not available, then presenting the order form for the software application to the user data processing system.

19. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of processing a payment includes accessing a financial institution data processing system for conducting a payment verification.

20. (currently amended)　　A computer implemented method of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing system, the method comprising:

establishing a license database including a plurality of internet protocol addresses and associated software application identifiers of software applications licensed to execute on user data processing systems referenced by the internet protocol addresses;

establishing a receipt code database including a plurality of receipt codes, each receipt code indicating a paid license for at least one of the software applications;

initiating installation of the software application in the user data processing system;

obtaining the internet protocol address of the user data processing system using the vendor data processing system;

if the internet protocol address is recorded in the license database, then transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system; and

if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then requesting the user to transmit a receipt code to the vendor data processing system and presenting the user with the authorization code after receiving the receipt code;

in response to a receipt code received by the vendor data processing system from a user data processing system, verifying presence of the receipt code in the receipt code database; and

in response to the verifying presence of the receipt code, transmitting the authorization code for a software application associated with the receipt code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol address of the user data processing system in the license database.

21. (new)　　A program storage device for obtaining an authorization code from a vendor data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing system, comprising:

a processor-readable program storage device including instructions that are executable by a processor for performing the steps including,

establishing a license database including a plurality of internet protocol addresses referencing user data processing systems on which the software application is licensed to execute;

establishing a receipt code database including a plurality of receipt codes, each receipt code indicating a paid license for the software application;

obtaining the internet protocol address of the user data processing system using the vendor data processing system;

in response to the internet protocol address being recorded in the license database, then transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system and activating the application with the authorization code;

in response to the internet protocol address not being recorded in the license database, requesting a user of the user data processing system to transmit a receipt code to the vendor data processing system;

in response to a receipt code received by the vendor data processing system from a user data processing system, verifying presence of the receipt code in the receipt code database; and

in response to the verifying presence of the receipt code, transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol address of the user data processing system in the license database.

22. (new)   The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the processor-readable program storage device is further configured with instructions for performing the step including, in response to the internet protocol address not being recorded in the license database and the receipt code not being present in the receipt code database, presenting to the user data processing system an order form for the software application.

23. (new)   The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the processor-readable program storage device is further configured with instructions for performing the step including processing a payment by the user for the software application in response to the presented order form.

24. (new)   The program storage device of claim 21, wherein for performing the step of establishing the license database, the processor-readable program storage device is further configured with instructions for performing the steps including,

identifying a number of available software application licenses corresponding to the user that are not referenced to a particular internet protocol address and user data processing system; and

if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then associating at least one of the available software application licenses with the internet protocol address and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing system.

25. (new)   The program storage device of claim 23, wherein for performing the step of processing a payment, the processor-readable program storage device is further configured with instructions for performing the step including, accessing a financial institution data processing system for conducting a payment verification.